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ABSTRACT

This booklet lists the laws that relate to Nebraska social studies. The volume is intended for administrators, teachers, and curriculum planners to assist them to do a more thorough job of planning social studies programs. The Nebraska Social Studies Statutes are designed to be a primary tool in developing a district's curriculum, as they speak to the values that Nebraskans have held for many generations and will continue to hold. The educational environment is the one area where these values can affect the greatest number of Nebraskans. There is a disclaimer that the laws may appear obsolete with language referring only to men, but that all young people should enjoy a democratic way of life and absorb democratic and character building values deemed important. Some laws are very specific about course content and course offerings, while others are very vague and general. Laws listed deal with the following topics: (1) American citizenship; (2) Character education; (3) Multicultural education; (4) Holidays (including Thanksgiving; Veterans Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; George W. Norris Day; American Indian Day; State Day; and Pulaski's Memorial Day). (EH)

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NEBRASKA SOCIAL STUDIES STATUTES

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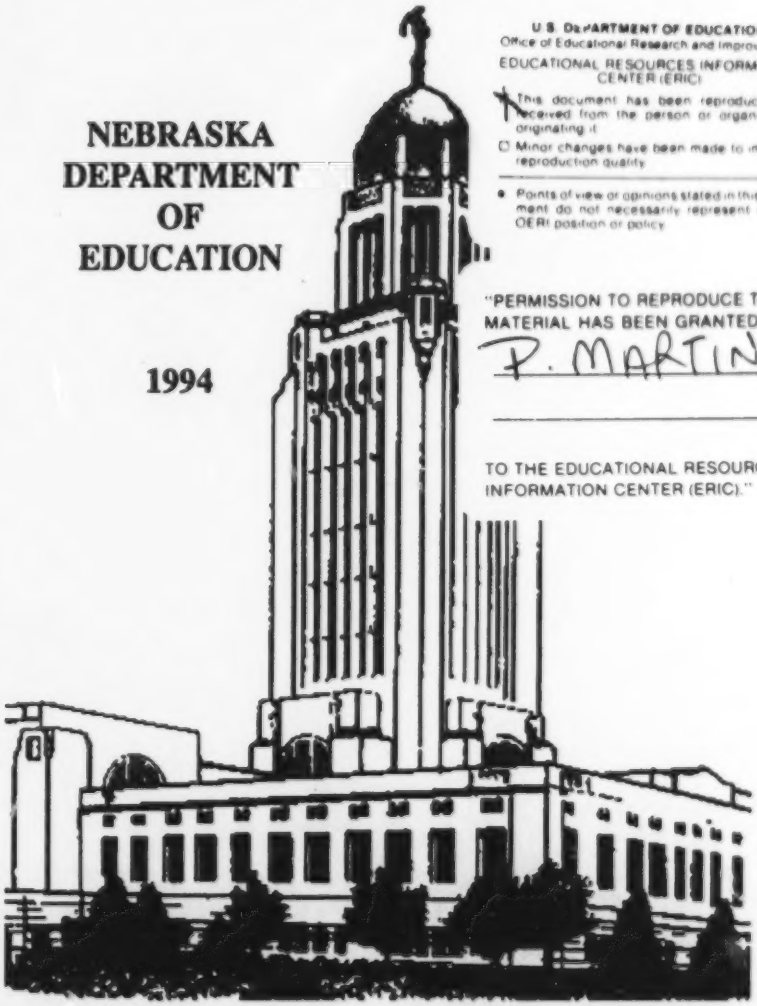

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NEBRASKA

SOCIAL STUDIES

STATUTES

The following statutes are current as of
June, 1994

Joe E. Lutjeharms
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
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INTRODUCTION

This publication of laws which relate to social studies is being distributed to administrators and teachers to assist them to do a more thorough job of planning social studies programs. The Nebraska Social Studies Statutes need to be a paramount tool as you work on your district's curriculum. These laws speak to the values that Nebraskans have held for many generations and which they will, no doubt, continue to hold. The educational environment is the one area where these values can affect the greatest number of Nebraskans.

When you read these laws, you will notice that the language is somewhat obsolete in the social context of today in that it refers to men only. Nevertheless, we want our young people of both sexes to enjoy our democratic way of life and to absorb the democratic and character building values that Nebraskans deem important.

As you read these laws, you will note that some of them are rather specific about course content as well as course offerings. Other laws are vague and general but do indicate in a general way what is expected of the schools.

By publishing the laws in one concise publication, we hope to make your task as administrators, teachers, and curriculum planners easier and more convenient.

John LeFeber
Consultant for the Social Sciences

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, age, color, religion, marital status, or national or ethnic origin in its educational programs, admission policies, employment policies, other agency administered programs and all related publications.

American citizenship; committee; created; duties; required instruction; patriotic exercises; duties of officers.

LAW 79-213. An informed, loyal, just, and patriotic citizenry is necessary to a strong, stable, just, and prosperous America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be fully acquainted with the nation's history, that he be in full accord with our form of government, and fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and advantages of which we are possessed and the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these benefits were gained. Since youth is the time most susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence men throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational system to so conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the love of liberty, justice, democracy, and America will be instilled in the heart and mind of the youth of the state. (1) Every school board shall, at the beginning of each school year, appoint /from its members a committee of three, to be known as the committee on Americanism, whose duties shall be: (a) To carefully examine, inspect, and approve all textbooks used in the teaching of American history and civil government in the school. Such textbooks shall adequately stress the services of the men who achieved our national independence, established our constitutional government, and preserved our union and shall be so written to include contributions by ethnic groups as to develop a pride and respect for our institutions and not be a mere recital of events and dates; (b) Assure themselves as to the character of all American form of government; and (c) Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section. (2) Beginning with the school term in 1971, all American history courses approved for grade levels as provided by this section, shall include and adequately stress contributions of all ethnic groups (a) to the development and growth of America into a great nation, (b) to art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the war services in all wars of this nation. (3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour per week to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose: (a) The recital of stories having to do with American history, or the deeds and exploits of American heroes; (b) The singing of patriotic songs and the insistence that every pupil shall memorize the Star Spangled Banner and America; and (c) The development of reverence for the flag and instruction as to proper conduct in its presentation. (4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial schools at least three periods per week shall be set aside to be devoted to the teaching of American history from approved textbooks, taught in such a way as to make the course interesting and attractive, and to develop a love of country. (5) In at least two grades of every high school, at least three periods per week shall be devoted to the teaching of civics, during which courses specific attention shall be

given to the following matters: (a) The Constitution of the United States and of the State of Nebraska; (b) The benefits and advantages of our form of government and the dangers and fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and similar ideologies; and (c) The duties of citizenship. (6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the school superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day, or on the day preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session. (7) Every school board, the State Board of Education, each county superintendent of schools, and the superintendent of each individual school in the state shall be held directly responsible, in the order named, for the carrying out of the provisions of this section, and neglect thereof by any employee or appointed official shall be considered a dereliction of duty and cause for dismissal.

Character education; principles of instruction; duty of teachers.

LAW 79-214. Each teacher employed to give instruction in, private, parochial, or denominational school in the State of Nebraska shall so arrange and present his instruction as to give special emphasis to common honesty, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for the national flag, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, respect for parents and the home, the dignity and necessity of honest labor, and other lessons of a steadying influence which tend to promote and develop an upright and desirable citizenry.

Character Education; outline of instruction; duty of commissioner of education.

LAW 79-215. Character education; outline of instruction; duty of Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall prepare an outline with suggestions such as in his judgment will best accomplish the purpose set forth in section 79-214 and shall incorporate the same in the regular course of study for the first twelve grades of all schools of the State of Nebraska.

Violations; penalty.

LAW 79-216. Any person violating the provisions of sections 79-201 to 79-215 shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

LAW 79-4,229. Multicultural education defined. For purposes of sections 79-4,229 to 79-4,233, multicultural education shall include, but not be limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African American, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. Special emphasis shall be placed on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

Source: Laws 1992, LB 922, § 1. Effective date July 15, 1992.

LAW 79-4,230. (1) Each school district, in consultation with the State Department of Education, shall develop for incorporation into all phases of the curriculum of grades kindergarten through twelve a multicultural education program.

(2) The department shall create and distribute recommended multicultural education curriculum guidelines to all school districts. Each district shall create its own multicultural education program based on such recommended guidelines. Each program shall be reviewed and, if within the guidelines, approved by the department, and a copy of each such program shall be on file with the department.

(3) The process of implementation of the multicultural education program shall begin in school year 1993-94 and such process shall be completed in school year 1994-95. The multicultural education program shall be integrated into the curriculum of each district each school year thereafter.

(4) The incorporation of the multicultural education program into the curriculum of each district shall not change (a) the number of instructional hours prescribed for elementary and high school students or (b) the number of instructional hours dedicated to the existing curriculum of each district.

Source: LB 27 (1993)

LAW 79-4,231. School districts and department; duties; loss of accreditation. (1) Each school district shall present evidence annually, in a form prescribed by the State Department of Education, to the department that multicultural education is being taught to students pursuant to section 79-4,230. The department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the multicultural education program and establish reasonable timelines for the submission of such evidence.

(2) A school district which fails to provide or fails to provide evidence annually of multicultural education pursuant to section 79-4,230 shall lose its accreditation status.

Source: Laws 1992, LB 922, § 3. Effective date July 15, 1992.

LAW 79-4,232. In conjunction with the multicultural education program prescribed in section 79-4,230, the State Department of Education shall design a process for evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of each multicultural education program, including the collection of baseline data. The collection of baseline data for evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of each multicultural education program shall not include the testing, assessment, or evaluation of individual students' attitudes or beliefs. An evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of each multicultural education program shall be conducted during the first quarter of the 1997-98 school year and every five school years thereafter. The department shall report the results of each evaluation to the Legislature, the State Board of Education, and each school district.

Source: LB 27 (1993)

LAW 79-4,233 Rules and regulations. The State Department of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 79-4,229 to 79-4,232

Source: Laws 1992, LB 922, § 5. Effective date July 15, 1992.

Thanksgiving Day; proclamation by Governor.

LAW 84-104. The Governor shall by proclamation set apart the fourth Thursday in each November as a day of solemn and public thanksgiving to Almighty God for His blessings to us as a state and nation, and no business shall be transacted on that day at any department of state.

Veterans Day; proclamation by Governor; prohibition of transaction of business by state departments; manner of observance.

LAW 84-104.01. The Governor shall issue his proclamation each year designating Veterans Day and calling upon the public schools and citizens of Nebraska to observe such day as a patriotic day. Veterans Day shall be November 11, annually, unless such date falls on Saturday or Sunday, in which event the Governor may declare the preceding Friday or the following Monday as Veterans Day. No business shall be transacted on that day at any department of the State of Nebraska, except for necessary maintenance, highway construction inspection or in case of emergency. In pursuance to such proclamation, suitable exercises having reference to the wars and military campaigns of the United States, of Nebraska's role therein, and honoring the veterans of such wars and campaigns may be held in all schools of the state, both public and private.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; manner of observance.

LAW 84-104.02. January 15 of each year shall be Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and shall be set apart for holding suitable exercises in the schools of the state in recognition of the sacrifices of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., and his contributions to the betterment of society.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
proclamation by Governor; commemoration.

LAW 84-104.03. (1) The Governor shall, prior to January 15 of each year, issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Nebraska to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and fellowship. (2) The State Department of Education is directed to make, within the limits of funds available for such purpose, information available to the schools and all people of this state regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the observance thereof.

George W. Norris Day; manner of observance.

LAW 84-104.04. January 5 of each year shall be designated as George W. Norris Day, and shall be set apart for holding suitable exercises in the schools of the state in recognition of the many great benefits bestowed upon the people of the State of Nebraska and the United States as a whole, due in large part to the influence of George W. Norris. Such benefits include: (1) Establishment of a nonpartisan unicameral legislative body for the State of Nebraska; (2) establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority; (3) the development of electricity in the rural areas of the nation; (4) passage of the twentieth amendment to the United States Constitution, commonly known as the lame duck amendment; and (5) the Norris-La Guardia Act which outlawed yellow-dog contracts and was a great boon to working men and women across the nation.

George W. Norris Day;
proclamation by Governor; commemoration.

LAW 84-104.05. The Governor of the State of Nebraska shall issue a proclamation calling upon the officials of state government and subdivisions thereof to display the flags of the United States and Nebraska on all public buildings on January 5 of each year and inviting the people of the State of Nebraska to observe the day in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies in commemoration of the life's work and contributions of George W. Norris.

American Indian Day; legislative findings.

LAW 84-104.06. The Legislature finds that American Indians were the first residents of the State of Nebraska. The Legislature further finds that these residents have made advances to the growth and development of the United States, the State of Nebraska, and their local communities, first through history and now through human and natural resources. The Legislature also finds that American Indians have made significant contributions and will continue to make contributions to the development of business, industry, education, the arts, and other areas which have made this country and this state a good place in which to live. The Legislature also finds that many of these contributions are unknown and unrecognized by many Nebraska citizens.

American Indian Day; manner of observance.

LAW 84-104.07. It is hereby declared that the fourth Monday in September of each year shall be known in Nebraska as American Indian Day and that on this day schools, clubs, and civic and religious organizations shall be encouraged to recognize the contributions of American Indians with suitable ceremony and fellowship designed to promote greater understanding and brotherhood between American Indians and the non-Indian people of the State of Nebraska.

American Indian Day;
proclamation by Governor; commemoration.

LAW 84-104.08. (1) The Governor shall, prior to the fourth Monday in September of each year, issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Nebraska to observe American Indian Day with suitable ceremony and fellowship. (2) The State Department of Education and the Commission on Indian Affairs shall make, within the limits of funds available for such purpose, information available to all people of this state regarding American Indian Day and the observance thereof.

State Day; observance; commemoration; proclamation.

LAW 84-107. The Governor shall annually issue his proclamation designating State Day and calling upon the public schools and citizens of Nebraska to observe said day as a patriotic day. State Day shall be on March 1, annually, unless such day falls on Saturday or Sunday, in which event the Governor may declare the preceding Friday or the following Monday as State Day. In pursuance to said proclamation of the Governor, suitable exercises, having reference to Nebraska pioneers, Nebraska's natural resources, its history, and the event of the admission of Nebraska as a state to the Union, may be held in all schools of the state, both public and private.

Pulaski's Memorial Day; proclamation; observance.

LAW 84-108. The Governor of the State of Nebraska is authorized and directed to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials of the state government and subdivisions thereof in local communities to display the flag of the United States on all public buildings on October 11 of each year and inviting the people of the State of Nebraska to observe the day in schools and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies, in commemoration of the death of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski.

Observances; not paid holidays.

LAW 84-108.01. The observances provided for in sections 84-104.05, 84-104.08, 84-104.09, 84-107, and 84-108 shall not include provisions for such days to be declared paid holidays pursuant to subsection (3) of section 84-1001.

OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE UNICAMERAL

The Clerk of the Legislature's office publishes rosters listing names, telephone numbers, committee assignments, and other information about state senators. It also provides weekly hearing schedules, the speaker's daily agenda, and daily worksheets indicating each bill's progress. **Clerk of the Legislature**, Room 2108, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509, 502/471-2271.

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